



Section 1

Sec 254. (a) IN GENERAL - The State plan shall contain a description of each of the following:

(1) How the State will use the requirements payment to meet the requirements of title III (equipment and administration), and, if applicable under section 251 (a)(2), to carry out other activities to improve the administration of elections.

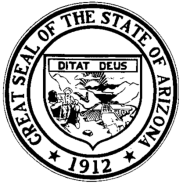
Recommended Language:

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), public law 107-252, establishes minimum election administration standards for states that affect the offices of the secretary of state, county recorders and county election officials. HAVA provides election reform across the nation and brings uniformity to state elections, HAVA will enable each voter an opportunity to cast their ballot. It specifically requires the state of Arizona to:

- Create a new uniform statewide voter registration system;
- Certify new and existing voting systems according to national standards;
- Replace all punch card voting devices used by counties for elections;
- Improve voting device accessibility, to include physical and language accessibility;
- Maintain uniform election procedures and certification of election officials and poll workers;
- Increase voter education for new voting systems; and,
- Establish a statewide complaint system for a uniform, nondiscriminatory response to grievances.

The state of Arizona is in a relatively good position to implement the requirements of HAVA. Many standards or activities required in HAVA are already in place and being successfully executed. Uniformity across Arizona is achieved through state statute and the state election procedures manual covering the topics surrounding elections: voter qualification; voting system certification; what constitutes a vote; election official and poll worker training; alternative language requirements; uniform provisional ballots procedures (previously "ballots to be verified"); procedures for military (or "absentee") ballots; and tabulating and reporting. The state has consistently followed the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and therefore already has sound procedures for voter registration and maintenance of the voter registration rolls.

For those minor statutory and regulatory changes required, the secretary of state has submitted legislation and has begun the revision process of the state election procedures manual to bring terminology and procedures into conformance with HAVA.



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STATE OF ARIZONA

Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA)
Preliminary State Plan

HAVA provides funding to the state of Arizona for the implementation of election reform, a total of \$51,764,959 (Sections 252 and 257) and \$6.9 million as early monies (Section 101). In order to qualify for funding, the state must:

- meet the requirements of Title III, including the bullet points above;
- provide the same maintenance of effort for election operations as in the budget year prior to the 2000 general election; and
- provide matching funds of five percent of the federal dollars, calculated at \$2.5 million.

The state has certified it will meet the budgeting requirements, and in addition, has determined the counties must also meet the same maintenance of effort as experienced in the 2000 general election. The state will establish the state election fund, in which monies from HAVA will be deposited and appropriately disbursed. Many of the expenditures affect county operations, so eligibility to receive funds will be determined by compliance with state statute, the election procedures manual, and the statewide efforts regarding elections. This state plan, as prescribed in HAVA, describes actions that will be taken to address the election procedures reform, voter registration reform, voter registration system centralization, and voting systems buyout.

Subject to the complete funding allocated in HAVA, the state will embark on parallel statewide efforts to be consistent with HAVA requirements:

- Arizona – Adios Chad is a statewide contract effort to facilitate replacement of voting systems in counties where punch card systems were used in the 2000 General Elections. The procurement effort will also include the voting accessibility standards for disabilities for the remaining counties.
- Voter Registration Arizona (VRAZ) will also be a priority of the secretary of state to implement a statewide voter registration system. Working with the county recorders and state election officials, the state will define functional requirements, roles and responsibilities of carrying out the functions of voter registration to enhance the operations of each of these offices, with the voter as the primary benefactor of the resulting system.
- 877 THE VOTE is the secretary of state's current toll-free election information line. This system will be expanded to implement the initial call-in element of a statewide grievance tracking system. The statewide grievance tracking system will allow for the comprehensive coordination of response by the secretary of state, (and as designees: the county recorders, county and state election officials) and the state attorney general with the initial grievance handled by phone call and escalating to a written process when needed.
- Accessibility, whether physical disability or a language barrier, is widely addressed in state law and the state election procedures manual and is largely maintained under the current efforts of the secretary of state and county officials. However, given the intent of



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HAVA to further enhance accessibility, the state will engage statewide efforts to ensure accessibility to voter registration, voting systems, voting information, voting locations and all processes directly connected to the election process. This will include disbursements to counties to improve physical accessibility of polling locations, language accessibility requirements beyond the current efforts, and expansion to voting education through public service announcements and coordinated statewide efforts.

- To meet these efforts, the secretary of state will incur administrative costs associated with the coordination, planning, operations and reporting on these programs. In addition, the secretary of state will need to expand its voting system certification efforts and election official certification, as well as expanding the state election procedures manual to include uniform guidelines for all training relative to election processes. These costs, along with portions of infrastructure and support systems, will be funded through the state election fund.

To ensure that HAVA reform is sustained, the state will also extend current reporting requirements to gauge performance of the state and county officials. These reports will not only provide public inspection of election process performance, but will also be the foundation to determine future modifications required in law or the state election procedures manual. While the state election fund consists of federal funds, the secretary of state will maintain this state plan to reflect the state's direction and preparedness to fulfill the requirements of HAVA.